GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SPACE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2209
ANSWERED ON:29.08.2007
RE-USABLE LAUNCH VEHICLE
Sugavanam Shri E.G.

Will the Minister of SPACE be pleased to state:

(a) the approximate cost of launching satellites in space per k.g;

(b) whether Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has conducted any study on the development of Re-usable Launch Vehicle (RLV) for reduction of cost and to enable frequent space visits;

(c) if so, the details thereof ; and

(d) the time by which the RLV is likely to be put into operation?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN):

(a) The per kg cost of launching satellites into Geo-synchronous Transfer Orbit using Expendable Launch Vehicles (ELVs) is approximately US $ 15,000 − 20,000.

(b), (c) & (d) ISRO has undertaken detailed studies on the development of Reusable Launch Vehicle (RLV) technology as a long term goal. Systematic development and evaluation of some of the enabling technologies have begun as a part of Decade profile 2010-2020. Use of RLV in future is expected to bring down the cost of launch significantly and also provide for greater launch frequency. The likely time frame for putting RLV into operation will be firmed up after completing the R&D phase.